

him as President. Although well-intentioned, Li was not strong enough for the difficult post, and the calm which followed his accession was deceptive. He pleased the radicals by restoring the constitution of 1912 and recalling the Parliament which Yuan had dismissed. Feng Kuo-chang, a prominent military figure in the Yangtze Valley, was elected Vice-President. Tuan Ch'i-jui, a henchman and appointee of Yuan Shih-k'ai, and commanding the support of the military machine which the latter had built, continued as Premier. The major factions were thus represented in the government, but it required a leader with more than Li's ability to keep them working harmoniously.

In the spring of 1917 the inevitable dissension broke out—over the question, as it chanced, of China's entry into the World War. In March China broke off relations with Germany. Tuan wished her to take the next logical step, but Parliament refused to join in a declaration of war while he was Premier. The President acceded and dismissed Tuan (May 23). Tuan withdrew to Tientsin and here a group of military leaders representing the faction which had formerly backed Yuan Shih-k'ai declared the independence of several provinces—most of them in the North. Li Yuan-hung, faced with this opposition and without adequate military support, called in as mediator Chang Hsiin, a picturesque chieftain who had adhered to the Manchus in the revolution of 1911 and was now military governor of Anhui and in command of a force astride the Tientsin-Pukow railway. Following the counsel of Chang Hsiin, the President dismissed Parliament (June 13th). On July first, after bringing his troops to Peking, Chang Hsiin electrified the world by declaring the restoration of

the Ch'ing dynasty—an act probably due to his sense of the traditional Confucian obligation owed by a minister to his prince. The generals assembled at Tientsin, however, were not minded to tolerate any such turn of events and marched on Peking. Before the middle of July Peking had been taken, Chang Hsiin had sought sanctuary in the Dutch Legation, the boy Emperor had again retired, and the Republic had been officially restored.

Li Yuan-hung refused to resume the Presidency, for he had lost enormously in prestige and had no powerful friends at hand to support him. Feng Kuo-chang, as Vice-President, automatically came into the Presidency, and Tuan Ch'i-jui resumed the Pre-